GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:4
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Development of Tourism in Lakshadweep
Mohammed Shri Faizal P.P.

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the tourists arrival, both domestic and international in the Lakshadweep Group of Islands along with the revenue earned therefrom;
(b) whether the Government has taken note of lack of Air Connectivity, hotels/accommodation and other facilities/services to the tourists in the Islands and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has any plan to improve tourism sector in the Lakshadweep, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
(d) the funds made available and likely to be made available for the purpose, to promote tourism in the Islands?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

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STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*4 ANSWERED ON 18.07.2016 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN LAKSHADWEEP.

(a): The number of Domestic Tourist Visits (DTVs) and Foreign Tourist Visits (FTVs) to the Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep during 2015 were 17241 and 1173, respectively. The growth registered in DTVs and FTVs during 2015 over 2014 were 136% and 128%, respectively. Ministry of Tourism does not compile revenue earned from tourism, however, the Foreign Exchange Earned (FEE) from tourism during 2015 was Rs.135193 Crore. This information is not compiled separately for States/UTs.

(b): Yes, Madam. Lakshadweep faces constraints in development of Tourism, like connectivity, accommodation, Supply of Water, etc. It has also taken steps to overcome some of these constraints:

â€¢ To overcome connectivity constraints, Alliance air under Air India is operating an ATR 42 aircraft six days a week between Kochi and Agatti. Helicopter service is also provided between Agatti − Kavaratti − Bangaram. Some seats are reserved in passenger ships for tourists also.
â€¢ To overcome limitations of accommodation, Department of Tourism, Lakshadweep has created a total bed capacity of more than 176 beds including 52 bed capacity in the tented accommodation at Bangaram & Thinnakara. Moreover, ship based packages i.e. packages where passengers stay overnight on ship only and visit the islands in daytime have also been introduced − so as to reduce load on islands.
â€¢ The Low Power Thermal Desalination Plants have been set up in the islands of Kavaratti, Minicoy and Kadmat to meet the drinking water requirements of inhabitants and visiting tourists.

(c): Yes, Madam. The Lakshadweep Administration has notified Lakshadweep Tourism Policy, which envisages for holistic development of tourism in the entire UT of Lakshadweep. Besides this, other steps taken by Department of Tourism, UT of Lakshadweep, are as under:

â€¢ Agatti and Minicoy Islands of Lakshadweep have been declared as authorized Immigration Check Posts for entry/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.
â€¢ Department of Tourism participates in various fairs and festivals conducted in various parts of the country to promote Lakshadweep tourism.
â€¢ Department of Tourism has been conducting National Minicoy Fest, every year to showcase Lakshadweep culture and customs to rest of the world. 4th National Minicoy Fest 2015 was organized on 27th and 28th December, 2015 at Minicoy Island.
â€¢ A short film on important tourist destinations and water sports activities has been produced by the department for promoting Lakshadweep Tourism.

(d): Development and promotion of tourism is responsibility of the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to them for tourism projects subject to adherence of existing

scheme guidelines, availability of funds and liquidation of utilisation certificates for funds released earlier.

Details of projects sanctioned by the Ministry to the UT of Lakshadweep under PIDDC Scheme are as below:
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Sl. No Project Name Year Amount Sanctioned
1. Holding of "Hamfest" a Convention of International Amateur Radio Operator at Kadmat Island 2006-07 Rs.7.00 Lakh
2. Augmentation Tourist Infrastructure in the U.T. of Lakshadweep 2007-08 Rs.782.73 Lakh
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No projects have been sanctioned to the UT of Lakshadweep during the 12th plan.

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